

## **REMARKS**

The rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Chen (USP 6,223,959) is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clearly distinguish the present invention from the cited document and claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a shock absorber for a shoulder strap, comprising a panel-like absorbing portion and a reinforcing portion. The panel-like absorbing portion comprises a plurality of protrusions filled with air, a lower portion which is flat and an upper portion which forms the protrusions. The upper portion is attached to the lower portion and includes a protection fiber integrally attached outward to the upper portion and having a shape conforming to the shape of the protrusions such that the protrusions are restrained from deforming. In addition, the reinforcement portion is sewed together with the absorbing portion on one of its sides and connected to the middle of the shoulder strap. The reinforcement portion has a predetermined width with opposite end portions for absorbing shock acting on a users shoulder. The resilient portion is composed of a resilient and extensible material larger than that of the absorbing portions so that the opposite end portions of the reinforcement portion can be extended.

The cited Chen reference does not disclose a shock absorber for a shoulder strap having a protection fiber integrally attached outward of the upper portion and having a shape conforming to the shape of the protrusions such that the protrusions are restrained from deforming. Moreover, Chen does not disclose a reinforcement portion having a predetermined width with opposite end portions for absorbing shock acting on the users shoulder. Moreover, Chen does not disclose a reinforcement portion which is of a length larger than those of the absorbing portion so that the opposite end portions of the reinforcement portion can be extended.

Not only does Chen not disclose a protection fiber which conforms to the shape of the protrusions, he does not provide for any protection against deformation of

the protrusions. In addition, the reinforcement portion of Chen's strap differs substantially from that of the subject invention. In the subject invention, the reinforcement portion is made of a resilient and extensible material which is of a length larger than that of the absorbing portion. This is also not taught in Chen. The protection fiber in the shock absorber restrains the panel-like absorbing portion from leaking. Whereas, the reinforcement portion, which is sewed together with the absorbing portion on one of its sides, alleviates impact on the users shoulder to reduce shoulder pain. The connecting portion (22) shown in Chen are sewn separately on two opposite ends of the envelope part 23 for a different purpose from that disclosed by the reinforcement portion of the subject invention.

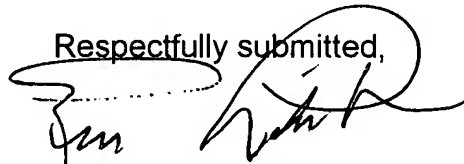
Accordingly, the shock absorber as amended in claim 1 is clearly patentable over Chen (USP 6,223,959) for all of the reasons given above.

The rejection of claim 3 is moot in that claim 3 has been cancelled.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application, with claim 1 as amended, is now in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

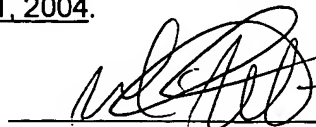


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## AMENDED CLAIM 1

### **1. (Currently Amended)** A shock absorber for a shoulder strap comprising:

a panel-like absorbing portion having a plurality of protrusions filled with air and hermetically and separately sealed, the absorbing portion comprising a flat lower portion, an upper portion forming the protrusions and attached to the lower portion, a protection fiber attached outward to the lower portion and a protection fiber integrally attached outward to the upper portion ~~conformingly~~ and having a shape conforming to the shape of the protrusions such that the protrusions are restrained from deforming wherein the plurality of protrusions of the absorbing portion are formed separately by compression-molding thermal polyurethane resin and are arranged in a lattice pattern; and

a reinforcement portion sewed together with the absorbing portion on one of its sides and connected to the middle of the shoulder strap ~~having~~ and has a predetermined width ~~and with~~ opposite end portions, wherein the reinforcement portion is made of resilient and extensible material, and ~~the length of the reinforcement portion~~ is of a length larger than that of the absorbing portion so that the opposite end portions of the reinforcement portion can be extended permitting the reinforcement portion to absorb shock acting on the users shoulder.

### **2. (Canceled)**

### **3. (Canceled)**